

Message

From: Steinbachs, John [/O=OCRPS/OU=EXTERNAL (FYDIBOHF25SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=72EBAE4E00E74236A610C2D6377EE672]
Sent: 1/26/2022 5:39:24 PM
To: Sloly, Peter [sloyp@ottawapolice.ca]; Bell, Steve [bells@ottawapolice.ca]; Ferguson, Patricia K [fergusonp@ottawapolice.ca]; Dunker, Blair [dunkerb@ottawapolice.ca]; Maloney, Kevin [maloneyk@ottawapolice.ca]; Danyluk, Peter V [danylukp@ottawapolice.ca]
CC: Fortunato, Maria [fortunatom@ottawapolice.ca]; Millbank, Robin [millbankr@ottawapolice.ca]
Subject: For Approval: Weekend Demonstrations

Unclassified

Good afternoon,

Here is the note to members we have prepped for this afternoon. We have adapted the language with everyone's edits.....

Chief, do you wish to send or Trish?

John

Members,

This is an update regarding our operational planning for weekend demonstrations related to truck convoys and other activities.

The Ottawa Police Service is the lead agency with the overall incident command for this event. Our priority is to maintain the safety of the members of our community and participants in the demonstrations.

Inspector Russell Lucas is the Incident Commander and has a team of members working on all aspects of the demonstration through planning, logistics, communications, intelligence and more. I want to thank all members planning for or working on this event. We rely on your professionalism and know-how, and I have already seen that on display.

Current Information

At this time, there is one main demonstration, the Freedom Rally, which involves a number of trucks and private vehicles arriving in Ottawa from across Canada. The exact number of participants is not known. However, all open source information and our interactions with organizers indicate that this will be a significant and extremely fluid event that could go on for a prolonged period (January 28 to 30).

Our planning team has been in contact with the organizers of the Freedom Rally demonstration. Communication with the organizers has been productive and cooperative.

Efforts are being made to establish communications with all other actors that may also engage in related demonstrations and/or counter-demonstrations.

Our operational planning reflects this assessment and is being designed to adapt to multiple scenarios. As with any large demonstration, there will be unique and asymmetric elements that are impossible to predict and challenging to manage. That said, we are planning for a range of potential risks, including (but not limited to) counter-demonstrations, blocking

off intersections/interfering with critical infrastructure, unlawful/violent activity, etc. There may be a need for call-outs for staffing and reassignment should the support be required.

A staffing plan has been developed to minimize the impact on police calls for service across Ottawa unrelated to the demonstrations.

We are working with the RCMP and the Parliamentary Protective Service and will have a joint command structure operating in the National Capital Regional Command Centre.

We are also working with our City of Ottawa and policing partners to help manage what we anticipate to be significant traffic disruptions and delays in Ottawa throughout this coming weekend.

We have arranged to have police liaison officers at the demonstration site, who will be the participant's first point of contact.

Residents and visitors can expect to see a large police and emergency services presence in the downtown core and on major highways and roads throughout this event. Traffic delays and congestion will occur and may occur on a large scale.

Member safety

Throughout this event and always, member safety is paramount. Our intelligence gathering is focused on member safety and assessing any credible threats. At this time, we do not have information about any danger to members of our facilities.

Now and always, be vigilant of your surroundings for situational awareness.

Communications to the Public

The Media Relations and Corporate Communications will be staffing this event throughout its duration.

Important: Corporate Communications/Media Relations must approve all spokespeople or information for release related to this event. This includes any media statements or social media posts. Should you have any questions regarding this, please email media.relations@ottawapolice.ca or call Media Relations Manager Carole Lavigne at 613-236-1222 ext. 5884.

As a reminder, our media relations and social media policy is available on [PolicyNet](#) (Communication and Information Management > Social Media).

The Ottawa Police Service, and its partners, manage public safety-related issues at hundreds of demonstrations every year. We will do our best to work with demonstration organizers to preserve the peace and minimize impacts for residents and businesses while protecting the right to demonstrate.

Police have a sworn duty to maintain public order and preserve the peace. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees certain rights and fundamental freedoms, including opinion, expression and peaceful assembly.

If the demonstrators arrive in significant numbers, it has the potential to cause substantial disruption for 72 hours or longer. As we work with organizers and address any ongoing issues, we will need time and the community's patience to alleviate the disruption peacefully. As Canada's capital and home to Parliament, this is an example of a unique and unplanned scenario we see in Ottawa.

We encourage visitors and residents to be aware of traffic updates from the City of Ottawa (follow @Ottawa_Traffic), avoid travel in the city core if possible and expect significant delays.

I will keep you updated throughout this demonstration as more information is available.

Trish Ferguson
A/Deputy Chief